AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

The present invention is directed to an image information encoding apparatus adapted for performing intra-image encoding ~~on the basis of~~ based on resolution of color components and color space of an input image signal. ~~In the image information encoding apparatus (10), an~~ An intra prediction unit ~~(23)~~ serves to adaptively change block size in generating a prediction image ~~on the basis of~~ based on a chroma format signal indicating whether resolution of color components is ~~that of any~~ one of 4:2:0 format, 4:2:2 format, and 4:4:4 format, ~~etc.,~~ and a color space signal indicating whether color space is ~~any~~ one of YCbCr, RGB, and XYZ~~, etc~~. ~~In addition, an~~ An orthogonal transform unit ~~(14)~~ and a quantization unit ~~(15)~~ serve to also change orthogonal transform technique and quantization technique in accordance with the chroma format signal and the color space signal. A reversible encoding unit ~~(16)~~ encodes the chroma format signal and the color space signal to include the encoded signals ~~thus obtained~~ into image compressed information.

Please amend the paragraph on page 51, line 18 and ending on page 52, line 5 as follows:

After 4 × 4 integral transform processing is performed, (0, 0) coefficients of eight 4 × 4 blocks within two 8 × 8 blocks successive in a longitudinal direction are collected to constitute 2 × 4 block to apply 2 × 4 transform processing to the 2 × 4 block. This is because efficiency of intra-prediction used in color difference is not so high so that

correlation is still left between (0, 0) coefficients of adjacent 4 × 4 blocks. In order to further enhance (increase) encoding efficiency by making use of the correlation, only (0, 0) coefficients of 4 × 4 blocks are collected to constitute 2 × 4 blocks to apply 2 × 4 transform processing thereto. When block of chroma DC of 2 × 4 is expressed as ~~f2 × 4~~ fdc2 × 4, transform processing with respect to the chroma DC block is represented by the following formula (72).